



Q-PIRG petitioners don't look like this, but...

PIRG vote may happen in March

by Mitu Sengupta

For the last two weeks, McGill has been flooded with students canvassing for support for a campus Public Interest Research Group. The canvassers are keen, clean-cut and very professional.

The petitions call for a referendum on a three dollars per semester fee levy to fund a Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG). Should all go according to plan, students will vote on fee in March.

QPIRG's stated goals are, "research, education and action on issues of public concern, and to work for beneficial social change." Their objectives include consumer protection and awareness, housing

issues, environmental problems and women's issues.

But only weeks before the referendum, several big questions remain unanswered. Some students are concerned the campaign may be a little too professional. They say the organizations will duplicate the function of the established student political lobby.

The organizing club has to yet prepare a constitution and a budget projection. It has not defined the specific role students will play in the organization. Furthermore, if the fee referendum passes, the PIRG constitution will not be put to referendum, but will only be submitted to the academic Senate. Students will be left without any

input with respect to the group's constitution.

PIRGs were started by consumer advocate Ralph Nader to involve students in community projects and to help fight corporations. There are PIRGs in Ontario, British Columbia and the United States. In Québec, PIRG has approached McGill and Concordia Universities with the goal of establishing a province-wide organization.

"The organizers are going about this the wrong way," said McGill student Carlene Gardner. "If they want a province-wide PIRG, why have they approached the two major anglophone universities in Québec?" According to Jean-Pierre Paquet, Secretary General of

L'Association nationale des étudiants et étudiantes du Québec (ANEEQ), "many of the francophone universities know very little about PIRGs or Ralph Nader." Paquet said he met with PIRG officials last summer, but since then had not been well informed of the project.

Paquet also questioned the necessity of such an organization in Québec.

"In the United States, PIRGs are of great importance because student societies are not involved in many social issues," he said. "In Québec, student movements such as ANEEQ have long been involved in lobbying the government for a large number of social, peace and welfare issues." Paquet said that ANEEQ is also involved in mobilizing students to work with consumer protection groups such as Association co-operative d'économie familiale (ACEF) and Fédération nationale des associations de consommateurs du Québec (FNACQ).

Gardner said there are a large number of on-campus student clubs and organizations which deal with the same issues.

Duff Conacher is working on a grant from the Ralph Nader Foundation to help students set up PIRGs in Québec. He said the PIRG would "represent students as citizens," while groups such as ANEEQ represent "students as students."

"Another essential difference is that PIRGs do actual research on social issues," he added.

According to Conacher, QPIRG will be an autonomous group, working on research ideas proposed by students. QPIRG will use

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Protestors attend:

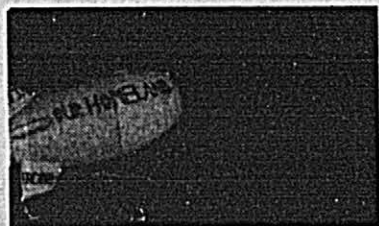
Israeli ambassador speaks at McGill

by Mitu Sengupta

Over fifty people demonstrated against a speech made by Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Binyamin Netanyahu, outside the Leacock Building February 14.

Netanyahu spoke as part of McGill Hillel Association's opening celebrations for Israel's 40th Anniversary.

The demonstrators called themselves "pro-Palestinian peace activists." "The position of the Palestinians is not anti-semitic, it is pro-Palestinian," said demonstrator Nisrin Haram of the McGill Palestine Solidarity Committee. According to Weizfeld, of the Jewish People's Liberation Organisation, "Netanyahu is not a representative of all the Jewish people in the world, not even of all the Jewish people in Israel." He said an Israeli peace coalition, Peace Now, has substantial support from both the Jewish and Arab populations.



Netanyahu commented upon the current Palestinian revolt against Israel's occupation of the territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. "We are at war," he said, "there is an on-going war of Arabs against the Israeli state." According to the ambassador, Israel's primary objectives are to restore tranquillity in the "disturbed regions" and to reach a "political solution." "However, Israel will never negotiate with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)," he added, "this is the terrorist organization of our times."

Eibie Weizfeld disagreed. "The Israeli government is using similar methods of violence that it is condemning the PLO for using," he said. U.N. figures indicate at least

fifty two Arabs have been killed since riots broke out on December 9.

According to PLO representative in Ottawa, Abdallah Abdallah, "The PLO is ready to negotiate directly with Israel if she accepts to act in good faith and recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination." "The Palestinians are ready to accept the partition plan of 1948 which will make Israel and its occupied territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into separate states," said Haram.

The West Bank and the Gaza strip constitute a large portion of Israel's 7 000 square miles of occupied territories. These territories were taken by Israel, following the defeat of Arab forces in the Arab-Israel War of 1967. About 634,000 Palestinians live in the Gaza strip. The Palestinians living in both these areas pay taxes but do not enjoy voting rights. The per-capita income in these territories is US \$750 while Israel has a GNP per capita of US \$5 200.

"For twenty years there have been riots and protests against the Israeli government in these territories," said John Dirlik of the *Arab World Review*. "For the first time now, the demonstrations have become more co-ordinated and have resulted in what he calls a 'full scale revolt.'"

Last April, the Palestinian National Council (PNC) met in Algiers to consider the possibility of a peace-conference in the Middle-East in which the Palestinians would meet with the five U.N. Security Council members and Israeli officials. As a prerequisite for such a consultation, however, the P.N.C. demands the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories and that there be an end to further Israeli settlements in these territories.

According to Netanyahu, the Arabs fundamentally oppose the existence of a Jewish state run by the Jewish people. "The Arabs want all of Palestine," he said.



Demonstrators outside Leacock building on Sunday.

"They resist the fact that Israel exists."

"No one can deny that, in the past, the Palestinians pledged the destruction of the Israeli state," said Haram, "Israel too claimed all the land from the Nile to the Euphrates." Since then, she said, both parties have modified their ambitions. "Netanyahu is taking the issue out of historical perspective by saying that the Palestinians still want the destruction of the Israeli state. The truth is that they just want a homeland of their own, just as the Israeli do," she added.

A number of European countries have called for an International Peace Conference on the Middle-East, asking Israel to negotiate directly with the PLO. On December 22, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution condemning Israel's practices and policies which violate human rights. Although the U.S. abstained on this resolution, it joined a second resolution passed by the council on January 5, condemning Israel's plans to deport nine Palestinian nationalists.

Students opposed:

Board backs research policy

by Megan Parry

McGill's Board of Governors approved Senate's amendments to the University's military research monitoring policy on Monday despite claims by some members they would be ineffectual.

Génévieve Tanguay, Graduate rep. to the Board, called the report "useless," and voted against it. "I think it does nothing. Nothing against military research, nothing for it. All it will do is increase bureaucracy and maintain confusion." Undergrad. rep. to the Board, Paul Pickersgill, also voted against the report.

Professor Roger Bennett, Associate Dean of Management, endorsed the report as "a compromise that everyone can live with." Bennett said the report would serve to prevent military research from being conducted at McGill.

Professor E. Pederson, from the Faculty of Education, agreed. "Even if research were brought to

McGill by a 'front' agency, if the source were military, it would come to light," he said.

The Board's report contains a provision requiring professors engaged in military-related research to submit a written letter to the Dean of Research, Gordon MacLachlan, outlining the positive and negative aspects of his or her

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events

Today

McGill Outing Club: general meeting, 19h30 in Lea. 232.

Café Commun(e): Films: Summerhill and Wandering Spirit Survival School. 201 Milton at 20h00. More info: 842-3344.

Native Affairs Committee: open information meeting to discuss native issues at CDAS, 3715 Peel, 19h00.

Daily photo meeting 17h00 talk money, talk coherent.
McGill Daily Newswriter's Meeting: 16h00, Union B-03.

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...BoG

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proposed research.

But Tanguay did not trust professors to be completely honest in their analysis of the consequences of their proposed research. "Research will always be biased," she said.

Board Chair, Hugh Hallward, said, "In the final analysis, it is human judgement which decides. There is a risk. People are people," he said.

In other news, the Board unanimously approved a motion proposed by Maria Battaglia, Student Society VP University Affairs, to establish a Standing Committee of the Board on Sexual Harassment. The Board also approved the addition of a fourth McGill sexual harassment "assessor" to be added, for the MacDonald campus.

Professor Conway, from the Department of English, called this "a good motion," but added that the title of assessor might be intimidating to a victim of sexual harassment. "These women have been abused in a very personal way. The term assessor can present a psychological barrier," Conway recommended assessor be changed to "advisor." The Board, however, agreed to keep the previous term.

Conway felt the definition of sexual harassment contained "many holes" and questioned the training and expertise of McGill's assessors. "They must have more than simply good intentions," he said.

Gosset trial begins with lawsuits and inquiries

by Chris Martin

Jury selection for the manslaughter trial of Alain Gossett, the police officer charged with the November 11 death of Anthony Griffin, was completed yesterday.

"Many people felt Gossett should have been charged with murder," said Michel-Adrian Sheppard of S.O.S. Racism. But, he noted, murder is more difficult to prove.

Gossett claims the shooting was an accident. He has filed libel suits totalling \$1 450 000 against radio stations CJMS, CKAC, and television network TVA, claiming the stations' coverage implied that he was racist. Gossett has gone on rec-

ord saying he is "absolutely not a racist."

Ilma Lynton-Holt, of the Negro Community Council (NCC), said the response to Griffin's killing is unprecedented. "I've never seen this level of cooperation between communities. Griffin galvanized everybody together. It makes it easier for the government to deal with a unite group in which the critical issues are put forward."

According to Lynton-Holt, "what happened when Griffin was killed was the last straw. Even though he was from the Black community, his death affected the rest of the ethnic communities as well. It opened a Pandora's Box of

grievances and issues."

The Québec Human Rights Commission (QHRC) formed a committee to investigate relations between non-White communities and police last December, in response. The five member committee will accept written submissions from the public until March 4.

Additional meetings with various cultural groups will preface a two-week public hearing in March or April. After another deliberation period, the committee will submit a written report to the QHRC by June 30.

Committee spokesperson Christiane Ried said the inquiry has no judicial authority. "The purpose is to examine the whole situation and

shed light on the overall image of the MUC police force.

"There will be two sides to the inquiry. Firstly, to determine if there is racist behavior in the police force. Secondly, the committee will also try to find the sources of discrimination if it exists."

Ried said many administrative policies may be indirectly racist. "Recruitment selections and information procedures without directly being racist, may discriminate."

Lynton-Holt, favours the QHRC investigation committee, but criticizes the committee's objectives. "The mandate is too limited, it has been narrowed to Police-Visible Majority relations when the problems extend to the totality of the civil service." However, she added,

"Given that a government ministry has chosen this option, they still have our full participation."

Lynton-Holt is optimistic that a well-written, solid report will cause some government action. "I'm hoping Griffin's death will have long-term effects. Not as bitterness, but as a motive for effective change. If Anthony's death did this, then he didn't die for nothing."



Rebuffing the 'right wing offensive'

by Sharon I. Forrest

On Feb. 22nd, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) will come up with a list of resolutions on how women will fight the "right wing offensive." The resolutions will be presented and eventually ratified at the next CLC's general meeting in May in Ottawa.

'Stay home' is the message women are getting from many of the policies and statements coming from the Mulroney government, concerning issues ranging from free trade to day care, according to Canadian Union of Public Employees member, Carole Robertson. The Conservatives seem to be supported by big business in their attempts to bring down the women's movement. Liberated women refuse to take this and are fighting back by forming their own offensive.

At a conference run by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) titled "The Equality Challenge: Taking Hold of Our Future," 500 women from across Canada got together to discuss the issues and questions

from a progressive point of view. These women were from the CLC, la Federation du travail du Québec (FTQ) and various other unions.

"The main aim of the conference was to define for ourselves just who is the right wing offensive," said Carole Gingras-Larivière of FTQ, adding that "we want to be able to counter the right wing offensive with a unified force of our own". At the conference they found that the 'conservative front' consisted of "certain aspects of the Mulroney administration, large industries and a number of other non-progressive groups".

The conference dealt with the issues from three perspectives: social, economic and individual. Topics of central concern were free trade, abortion, child care, maternity leave and the so-called Affirmative Action Program (job creation program for women).

"Free trade will cause a lot of women to lose their jobs," said Robertson, Facilitator of the CLC conference, because "most women work specifically in an office. With free trade the American branch plant offices in Montréal would no

longer be required, everything will be run by computer from the US."

Since 50 per cent of all adult women in Canada are in the work force and that a large proportion of that group works in an office in a secretarial/receptionist type of job, free-trade would bring drastic effects. "Up until free-trade, there are laws against this type of (external) control," said Robertson.

Also brought up at the conference, was the success/failure of a recently formed programme called "affirmative action." "This job creation programme was formed to place women into non-traditional jobs," said Robertson, adding "this doesn't necessarily mean construction work, but also white collar executive positions." But a thing that started out as a good idea ended up getting not so good results. "Most jobs created by this programme are part-time," said Robertson. "That was very clever on the part of the government, since it means that women get no benefit, no pension, no pay equality, and basically no security," she added.

"The affirmative action programme is not enough, in the face of the right wing offensive," said Robertson.

The conference also dealt with policies and attitudes towards family planning. Problems concerning abortion, maternity leave and day-care were brought up "since they determine the degree of freedom of child-bearing aged women," said Gingras-Larivière.

Some of the conservative attitudes towards abortion have been made clear by pro-lifers and such prominent figures as B.C. Premier Bill Vander Zalm, who told the *Gazette* that the province would not pay for a woman's abortion, even if she was a victim of rape or incest, or if the child was known to be deformed. The Supreme Court ruling will help on abortion, but "women will have to be ready to fight again," said Robertson.

Day-care is also something many families are worrying about. A Montréal parent said, "We've been on the waiting list for day-care for two years, and my wife who has a

PhD is forced to stay home because of this, and it's expensive."

But it is single parents that suffer the most, as "there are 800,000 single parent families in Canada today," according to Robertson. The figure represents one out of seven Canadian families. Robertson cannot see "conditions getting any better," given the lack of government funding necessary to make abortion and day-care accessible to average wage earners.

Although the conference faced issues, "no resolutions were made," said Gingras-Larivière, nor was it decided exactly what issues will be the focus at the bi-annual general meeting of the CLC in May. "The outcome of the May meeting will determine in what ways the CLC will lobby the government and what legislation will be supported," according to assistant to CLC Women's Affairs president Linda Gallant, Bonnie Shiell. "It is time for us to look closely at the man-made laws, and prepare our strategies," said Gingras-Larivière.

comment

The gyp of the ice-PIRG

The Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) is asking for three dollars of your money per term. They are also asking you to put your money into an organization which is contradictory and potentially detrimental to Québec's student lobbying efforts.

QPIRG's objective is to create a Québec lobbying network. In exchange for McGill's student money, QPIRG promises to research issues in which students have expressed interest, for example abortion, loans, housing, etc. They intend to lobby the government with the results of their research efforts.

However, there already exist numerous lobbying organizations in Québec which are open to students. In trying to do the work of all these groups, QPIRG runs the risk of becoming a costly and ineffective duplication.

In addition, QPIRG has not done their research. They have not linked with other Québec research groups. QPIRG cannot provide a strong lobbying voice if they maintain their isolation. Furthermore, they are organizing through anglophone universities. This is a backwards approach to organization in a francophone province.

QPIRG differentiates itself from existing lobby organizations by claiming to represent students as citizens. Despite this intention, they have so far only approached students as students. They have organized their funding efforts through the framework of Students' Society and have based their budgets on student money. The QPIRG executive consists of professional researchers. Student money and student issues could potentially be put in the hands of paid bureaucrats. QPIRG wants student money but does not want to represent students as students.

QPIRG maintains it will be an autonomous organization, removed from Students' Society control. But QPIRG has no constitution. This would place QPIRG beyond anyone's control and put the money they could receive from McGill's students into an organization with no structure.

Stephanie Lachowicz

...PIRG referendum

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part of its funding to set up an office with a full-time professional staff who will provide "the expertise needed to successfully complete projects and to establish and maintain a resource centre accessible to students." Conacher said these staff members will not be students.

Gardner said, "If QPIRG wants to represent students as citizens, it should work within the structure, with groups such as ACEF and FNACQ, which are completely accessible to students," she said. "They are contradicting their own objectives by creating an organization exclusively for students."

According to Gardner, most existing organizations, including ANEEQ, conduct a considerable amount of research. A women's group, Regroupement des centres de santé des femmes du Québec (RCSFQ) published an inquiry on the status of abortion in Québec. "It's ridiculous to say that these groups don't do research," said Gardner.

Students' Society Clubs' Representative, Jamie Kneen, said "among other things, I'm worried that an external body like QPIRG is going to consume a lot of whatever student energy there is. The whole idea involves a massive duplication of efforts."

According to QPIRG organizers, the three dollar fee is refundable. "The refundable fee makes the QPIRG budget indefinite; the organization could get into serious financial difficulties with lease and compensation benefits for employees, if they have to refund a lot of money," said Gardner. "This is not an efficient way of organizing a club." Gardner added if QPIRG wanted to make its fee voluntary it should ask for simple donations.

Concordia has had a PIRG chapter for about 10 years. Members of this organization have disassociated themselves with the new PIRG campaigns at both McGill and Concordia.

"The club has been quite inactive during its existence," said Yun Jen

of the new Concordia PIRG, "we hope to do more research and become more effective by receiving funding and autonomy," she added. Under the Concordia University Student Association (CUSA), the club could not assess a separate membership fee.

"As an autonomous body, QPIRG is not specific to McGill student interests and should not receive funding," Gardner said.

"The QPIRG does not have a concrete structure to show us that it will succeed and be effective," said Kneen, "they only have proposals."

According to the Students Society constitution, in order to initiate a referendum at McGill, "a member of the Students Society must collect at least 500 signatures of Society members." At McGill, the QPIRG organizing committee has collected over 5000 signatures. If referendum results pass the fee, it shall stand for two years.

"Students should be fully aware that QPIRG is saying nothing new," said Gardner.

There is a concern growing among Canadian environmentalists and public-interest groups that food irradiation is a scam, designed to help the nuclear industry stay afloat in a time when it cannot sell any nuclear reactors.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) has not received an order for a CANDU reactor since 1978. But AECL not only constructs nuclear reactors, it also builds food irradiation technology and has sales people all over the world trying to sell them to various nations, particularly the Third World.

"They tell these nations that food irradiation will somehow improve the problem of starvation in the Third World which is really a load of crap—it has nothing to do with starvation. What it has to do with is finding a spinoff for the nuclear industry to help AECL," said John Willis, Greenpeace campaign coordinator of the nuclear fuel cycle.

The AECL is a crown corporation designed to make money. Yet, more Canadian tax money is given to the AECL for research than to all other forms of energy research combined. "The people in the nuclear industry feel threatened and there's a good reason for it because they'd die tomorrow if government subsidies stopped," said Gordon Edwards, Chair of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility.

Recently, the Canadian government has begun to tire of babysitting the AECL. Knowing that it cannot survive without government funding, the AECL has launched into food irradiator production. David Poch, lawyer for Energy Probe, Toronto and author of *Radiation Alert, A Consumers Guide to Radiation Issues*, calls the motives behind food irradiation technology "illegal".

"There's no great push from consumers and retailers for food irradiators—the push is from AECL," he said. "It's AECL's proposal, design, resources and they are building the units."

In Canada, irradiation of potatoes, onions and wheat are legal. But none of these products are being irradiated commercially because most food chains cannot afford this expensive process. They also fear a public boycott of irradiated foods.

Irradiation plants are located in Whitby, Markham, and Peterborough, Ontario and in Laval and St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. These plants currently irradiate medical supplies and animal feed. But many fear they could be easily converted to house food irradiation.

Technological Colonialism

The Canadian government is pushing hard to allow more food items to be irradiated because it will increase AECL's chances of sales to the Third World.

"The government needs the approval in Canada to market it in the Third World," said Irene Kock of the Nuclear Awareness Project, Oshawa. "It doesn't matter if we eat it here in Canada—just as long as we sell in the Third World. Sure, they'd love to sell it in Canada but they're looking at the Third World as a separate world. The only money to be made is in the Third World."

AECL has already begun food irradiation projects in the 'Third World' with the help of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). CIDA purchases food irradiators from AECL and sends them as aid to developing nations. In effect, the Canadian government still subsidizes the AECL but the money comes from a different budget.

CIDA's latest food irradiator donations went to Thailand and Jamaica. Starting in 1987, CIDA will contribute \$4.7 million to the Thai project over two and a half years.

CIDA is also carrying out feasibility studies in Egypt, the Ivory Coast, Chile, Haiti, as well as informal inquiries in connection with Sri Lanka, Brazil, China, Guatemala, Senegal and Cameroon.

"The AECL is now using CIDA to get into some countries, in the hopes of getting into other ones later," said Kock.

"Technological colonialism is what I'd call it," said Linda Pim, consultant on food irradiation at Pollution Probe. "CIDA has in the works Jamaica and Thailand and we don't use it here—it doesn't look good."

Many critics of food irradiation question the necessity of this type of aid. "It's aid that isn't aid," said Poch. "It is a mechanism by which the irradiation industry can obtain tax subsidies. It's an abuse of the foreign aid programme because it's inappropriate technology."

Food irradiation is a capital intensive, centralized industry. Each irradiator costs \$3 million or more. In a developing country, only the multinational agribusiness can afford to use such a process.

This poses a threat to Third World countries where unequal distribution of resources leads to food shortages. In most of these countries, practically all the land belongs to a powerful few who sell their crops abroad, rather than in the domestic market. Exporting crops is more lucrative because wealthy nations create a large demand. This demand is not due to greater population, but to excessive consumption.

"Food irradiation is going to put more land into export crops and Third World nations will have less food than they have now," said Kock.

"It's going to put control of resources in the Third World into the hands of the multinational agribusiness. The multinationals are going to be able to go in and do as they please," she said.

Using gamma rays, food irradiators destroy any insects and many forms of bacteria living in the food. This facilitates the passage of exported crops through quarantine barriers. As well, food irradiation creates a longer shelf life for food, enabling it to travel longer with less risk of spoilage.

The irony is that these irradiated crops will be coming back to wealthier nations. "There won't be any guarantee that the food we import will be labelled as having been irradiated," said Kock.

Frying up a scam Canada style

BY ELIZABETH PASTERNAK

Food irradiation is a preservation technique in which foods are exposed to gamma radiation can kill some kinds of bacteria that live in foods as well as delaying the ripening of foods and vegetables.



DAILY/LAURIE H.Z. ARMSTRONG

But if the food is labelled, these countries may find that their export crops do not sell abroad. "For example, one of the main purposes of food irradiation in Thailand is for the export of shrimp," said Pat Adams, Executive Director of Probe International.

"It is ironic because there's widespread discomfort in Canada and Britain for irradiated food. It's not fair to encourage Third World countries to export food that may be rejected by us. It demonstrates the self-interest of those pushing it here because they just want to make irradiator sales," said Adams.

It is unlikely that food irradiation of domestic crops within a Third World country would alleviate food shortages. Food irradiation requires a centralization of processing as all the food has to be collected and brought to the plant. But developing nations do not have the infrastructure necessary for such centralization.

In the Third World food production and consumption are highly decentralized. "Centralizing the processing in the Third World is going to be next to impossible," said Adams.

"For example, if you're hauling in all the rice to one or two centralized depots then it creates a problem of distribution because there aren't

adequate forms of distribution," said Pim. "Economically it's because the food has to be collected and then given out again."

Distribution requires infrastructure such as roads and electricity, which are unreliable in the Third World. "Food irradiators cost millions each. You can't have one in every street corner in Third World countries," said Pim.

Before food irradiation is effective in these nations, refrigeration must be present. "Food requires refrigeration and storage once the food is virtually impossible to refrigerate as electricity is not available in many areas," said Pim.

erratic," said Adams.

Adams also pointed out the high risk of recontamination. "The packaging is not like ours—often things are found open. From a technical point of view, there's a high chance the food will get recontaminated and it's therefore a waste of money."

Adams feels that expensive technology such as food irradiation is unnecessary for the Third World. "It's true that there is food loss by pests. But the solutions are known and it doesn't cost \$3 million. For example, putting palates between bushels will save much."

In a relief situation, food must be delivered as quickly as possible to the region, but food irradiation requires more time. "To add an extra step without ensuring proper refrigeration and sterilization, by trying to channel it through one more stage, not only equals a waste of money, but a waste of time," said Adams.

Consumption Dangers

Not only is food irradiation inefficient, it may also be dangerous to ingest. Worldwide debates have continued over the safety of consuming irradiated foods, but neither side has produced conclusive evidence.

"We don't know if it's safe," said Pim. "We can't say it definitely causes cancer in humans. But there have been enough studies that raise red flags of warning. It's not as the nuclear industry says, that there are no safety problems."

In 1973, the National Institute of Nutrition, in Hyderabad, India conducted the only peer-reviewed study monitoring the human consumption of irradiated food. S.G. Srikanthia, former director of the Institute, testified at the United States Congressional hearings on food irradiation in June 1987.

Srikanthia reported, "Undernourished children fed diets containing freshly irradiated wheat showed elevated levels of polyploid cells in circulating white cells." Polyploid cells are cells with chromosome abnormalities.

"Several months after the irradiated wheat was withdrawn, levels of polyploid returned to normal."

"The meaning of increased numbers of polyploid cells is not clear, though it is often seen in association with rapidly regenerating tissues and with malignancy (cancer)," said Srikanthia.

The nuclear industry has tried to discredit the Indian study despite the fact that it was peer-reviewed and published in a scientific journal. Said Pim, "For me, the bottom line in science is if you can replicate a study and put it in a peer reviewed journal. No one has published a document in a peer-reviewed journal that criticizes the Indian experiment."

Most groups who oppose food irradiation, demand that marketing of such foods not be done at home or abroad until solid studies have proven it to be unequivocally safe.

"We have to watch the long term effects of food irradiation because the changes are subtle and the effects don't show right away," said Edwards.

"The question is can the industry prove it as safe?" he asked. "Are we prepared to use people as guinea pigs? There are things people should know—it's not true that food irradiation has been proven to be safe—that's a lie."

Health hazards could be intensified in the Third World where diets are limited. "In the Third World they don't have varied diet," said Adams. "So if

you irradiate one product then you magnify the chances of health effects."

Pim added, "There's also been quite a bit of evidence of loss of vitamins in irradiated foods, especially vitamin B. This isn't bad in a varied diet. But it is harmful in the Third World where they irradiate rice."

Environmental Dangers

Food irradiators also threaten the environment because they use large amounts of radioactive cobalt 60 which are extremely toxic. Adams believes the dangers are much greater and more immediate in the Third World where protection regulations for workers and the public are poor.

Some Third World governments do not care, while others are simply unaware. "For example," said Adams, "banned drugs and pesticides are distributed in the Third World and the Third World governments just can't keep up with (regulating) them."

Canada produces 90 per cent of the world's cobalt 60. Cobalt 60 is a forced byproduct of the CANDU reactor. The sale of cobalt 60 would boost the AECL's radioisotope programme.

"What they figure is not only do they get rid of some of the waste," said Willis, "but they can sell some of the waste and reprocess it and take out these elements and sell them to whoever has bought their radiation plants."

In some Third World countries there are no institutions to regulate the use and disposal of radioactive materials. Pim is cynical about AECL's role as a regulator. "AECL says they have records of their radioactive material, but there have been several accidents. One went so undetected that it was made into table legs which ended up in Winnipeg—that was AECL cobalt 60."

This incident began in Mexico where 450 curies of cobalt 60 inadvertently ended up in a scrap-metal yard. Workers in the yard developed radiation sickness from the exposure. As well, the cobalt 60 contaminated all the metal in the yard, 5 000 tons of which was shipped across North America. Some of the radioactive metal ended up in Winnipeg where radioactive table legs were removed from a cafe.

Adams is skeptical of AECL's ability to create regulatory bodies within the Third World itself. "AECL would train the people in regulatory bodies in Third World countries. But I am not confident that it would be well done. The regulatory bodies are not good, even big multinational companies like Union Carbide."

Union Carbide is one of the United States' largest chemical companies. In 1984, the world's worst industrial accident occurred at the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India. As many as 5 000 people died but the official count is 2 000.

Despite all these potential dangers, the implementation of food irradiators in the Third World resides in the hands of the exporting and importing governments—not the people. For example, in Thailand, the deal passed from the Canadian government through AECL and CIDA to the Office of Atomic Energy for Peace in Thailand.

CIDA and other Western aid agencies are not obliged to take into consideration the concerns and wishes of the general public in the Third World.

"In Thailand there was no public



Daily photo—Peter Chingos

Gates to the food irradiation facility in Laval. Safe. Absolutely safe...

consultation and the people are not happy," explained Adams who is in contact with public interest groups in Thailand.

"If there were, the public reaction would be the same as it is here, that there are cheaper methods, and we don't really need it. People are just as prudent there as here. The attitude of governments is that these people can't make a decision for themselves," she said.

"People in the Third World are made to feel like guinea pigs. We're accomplices with Third World governments because we are trying to sell a product we are having a hard time selling to ourselves," said Adams.

Within Canada, public pressure has kept food irradiation at bay. Last fall, A&P food chain decided to test market irradiated potatoes in the Hamilton/Toronto region. Before they conducted the test, the issue was discussed on a radio show in the United States. The large number of phone calls from concerned listeners protesting the marketing of irradiated food caused A & P to cancel the project. The AECL now has 10 000 bags of irradiated potatoes that cannot be test marketed.

Yet, the Canadian government still wants to create legislation allowing more kinds of food to be irradiated in Canada.

In May 1987 the Standing Committee on consumer and corporate Affairs on the Question of Food Irradiation and the Labelling of Irradiated Foods published their final report after 5 months of public hearings.

The committee underlined the need for more testing in food irradiation technology. They recommended that food irradiation be restricted to those foods already approved "until an in-depth scientific assessment of health implications and further toxicological studies indicate that no significant adverse health effects would be expected to be found by the ingestion of irradiated foods."

But in September 1987, Jake Epp,

Minister of Health and Welfare, issued a response opposing most of the committee's recommendations. The report sided with the claim that the doses used for commercial food are safe. The report deemed additional testing on the safety of irradiated wheat and chicken unnecessary.

"I was completely outraged that the Federal government responded this way. It was an all party committee—6 Conservatives, 2 Liberals, 2 NDPs and the decision was unanimous. What is the system for if they can roughshod over it?" said Pim.

Edwards is not surprised. "The government is totally ignoring this report because the wheels were already turning."

The Canadian government and the pronuclear lobby are not concerned by the possibility that food irradiation may be unsafe. Nor are they considering whether it is necessary or appropriate either at home or in the Third World. They are thinking about making money.

"So who needs food irradiation?" said Edwards. "The answer is the nuclear industry needs it and nobody else."

Stop the government from spending your money to promote hasty implementation of food irradiation technology in Canada and elsewhere. Write the following and tell them what you think—

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp
House of Commons
Ottawa Ont.
K1A-0A6

Canadian International Development
Agency (CIDA)
200 Promenade du Portage
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0G4

sportshorts

Martlets win regular season b-ball

The Martlets, ranked ninth in the nation, have a 27-4 overall record, and stand in first place in the league with a 6-2 record. Over the weekend the team beat Bishop's, 73-69. Top scorer of the game was Julie Rousseau with 27 points, and a performance that earned her the QUAA Female Athlete of the Week award. The award brings McGill teams' total awards to 22, compared with only 14 throughout all of last year. Rousseau, fourth in the league in rebounds, grabbed 10 in the game, and Leah Hayman added 13 points to the score. Three Martlets are in their last season of play at McGill, including Hélène Cowan, who is ranked fourth in QUAA scoring with 121 points. With two monthly Molson Cup awards,

two QUAA and one CIAU athlete of the week awards, Cowan is looking for her third All-Canadian selection in this final season.

The Redmen lost Bishop's doubleheader, 90-82. Sunday the team brightened up and defeated UQTR 79-69, led by 18 points from Paul Brousseau, and 16 from co-captain Patrick Arsenault.

The Martlets host the Concordia Lady Stingers at 18h30 and the Redmen host the Stingers at 20h30 on Friday. The Redmen hope to repeat their success at UQTR Tuesday, February 23 at 20h30. The Martlets are granted a bye in the the QUAA Women's semi-final on Wednesday, February 24, as Laval plays Bishop's. McGill plays the winner at the QUAA Championship game on Friday February 26.

Synchro swim places fifth in OWIAA

York University hosted and won the OWIAA Synchronized Swim Championships from February 12-14. McGill placed fifth of the eight teams. McGill's Lorraine Veilleux placed first in the B flight, and Karen Wiemer finished fourth, as well as tenth in the Senior Figures event. The two placed second in the B class in the Duet Routine,

and Wiemer was named to the All-Star Squad. Caroline Bray won the Novice Figures event, and Brenda Robertson finished eighth. In the Intermediate Figures, Judith Mathieu placed eleventh.

New swim team rankings are also in, and the Redmen have remained steady at sixth in the nation. The Martlets have slipped to eighth from seventh.

McGill impresses at indoor track meet

The third annual McGill Invitational Track and Field Meet took place February 14, with fine performances by many McGill athletes. Jane Henderson won the women's 600m race, qualifying her for the Canadian Championships in Windsor next weekend. McGill runners were 4th (Sonya Matthews), 5th (Tammy Mansbridge) and 6th (Leslie Cameron) as well. McGill's Dan Nicholl won the men's shot put, solidifying his number one ranking in Québec and top ten ranking in Canada. In the women's 1500m, Manon Leblanc finished second, and Dominica Maciocia and Leslie Ogston fourth and fifth. Sonya Mat-

thews, Tammy Mansbridge and Leslie Ogston qualified in the women's 300m for the QUAA Championships next weekend at Laval, while the women's long jump was won by Gillian Amber. Graham Orr and Dan Latt finished fifth and seventh in the men's pole vault. McGill also won the women's 4 by 400 and men's 4 by 200 relays.

CIAU rankings for track and field show a few McGill athletes faring well. McGill men stand eleventh in the nation overall, and McGill women stand tenth. Kevin Jones, François Binnette, Dan Nicholl and Carolyn Ladanowski have all made the rankings in individual events this year.

Women's hockey wins first game

The Martlets won their first game of the season on the weekend at UQTR. The final score was 6-2, a reversal of the team's usual final results. Top scorer was Penny Baylis with two goals, supported by one goal each from Johanne Robichaud, Nancy Porteous, Brigitte Mitale and Dawn Levy. Goalie Debbie DesRivieres put in a great performance, kicking out all but two goals.

The Redmen tied Friday night against the University of Toronto Blues, 4-4. Saturday, McGill tied the York Yeomen 2-2. The Redmen have now clinched a playoff spot for the fifth consecutive year. The team's twenty-six points is a season record, topping the 1983-84 record of twenty-three points. Only two games remain and the team is assured of a 500+ record for the first time since 1977-78.

Hockey News Player of the Week went to scoring hotshot Mario DeBenedictis who picked up three assists over the weekend, and now has a seven-game point-scoring streak. Paul Grech leads the team's rookies with a record of 8-15-23 in his 27 games. Tim Iannone leads the team in eight categories, including goals, assists and points, and his 69-point total in 30 games is nearing the forty season goals by the late Russ McConnell.

The Redmen meet Concordia tomorrow at 19h30 for the First Annual Ronald Corey Cup. All proceeds will go to the Québec Society for Crippled Children. Friday, the Redmen travel to Kingston to meet the Queen's Golden Gaels at 19h30. The Ontario University Athletics Association East Division Best-of-Three Semi-finals takes place February 24, 26, 27 and 28.



Hockey players do the predictable thing.

JOINT SENATE BOARD COMMITTEE ON THE DISABLED

Draft Statement on Proposed Fee Increase

The Joint Committee on the Disabled endorses the Students' Society resolution to levy for a period of two years a fee of two dollars per student per semester, the resulting revenue to be allocated to the provision of services, equipment and facilities for disabled students. The Committee congratulates ACCESS MCGILL and the Students' Society for having taken such initiative and urges every student to vote on March 9, 10 and 11 in support of the resolution.

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McGill students: \$3.00 per day; \$7.00 for 3 consecutive days; \$2.00 per day for more than 3 consecutive days. McGill faculty and staff: \$4.00 per day. *Exact change only, please.* Boxed ads are available at the cost of \$4.00 per ad / per day — no discounts on boxing.

The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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361 — ARTICLES FOR SALE

Plane ticket return Mil-Vancouver Feb 18-March 1. \$290 or best offer. 457-3997.

Micromania: A Novice's Guide to Byling a Microcomputer: the only Montreal guide. Available at the McGill Bookstore.

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374 — PERSONAL

McGill Nightline.... Listening, information and referrals... till the wee hours of the morning. 7 days a week 6pm till 3am. 398-6246.

Gay or lesbian? Need to talk? Peer counselling offered in Union 417, Monday to Thursday, from 19h00 to 22h00 or call GALOM at 398-6822.

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Watch out England! Watch out Wales! The MWRFC Moose is loose. Good luck girls — have fun!

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To Peter of Champlain: thanks for being such a sweet guy on Saturday. See you at the next Engineering Pub Nite? Ann.

Single Med student, 27, wishes to share closeness and good times with attractive woman. Respect, sincerity, affection — a guy who'll hold you close and stay the night; lots of fun and laughter, too. Flexible, relaxed situation preferred — no thoughts of wedding bells please. TLC, PO Box 686, CDN Station, H3S 2V4.

383 — LESSONS OFFERED

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385 — NOTICES

Questions concerning birth control? Women's Union Birth Control Co-op, Union 423. Tuesdays and Thursdays — afternoons, Jennifer or Jacqueline. Condoms, foam, gel and diaphragms available.

Photographers: enter MUPS's 10th Annual photo contest/exhibition. Deadline for submissions, March 4th. 8 x 10 and mounted. For more info go to room B06 in the Union. Enter those photos!

387 — VOLUNTEERS

Help raise funds for food bank. Needed: rock guitar tutor for teenager, big sister for teenager and more. McGill volunteer bureau 398-6819, Union 414 12 - 2pm.

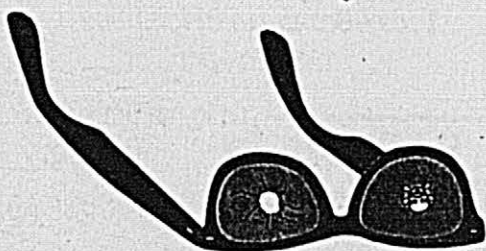
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PATENAUE FRENETTE INC.

Palestinian solidarity tour

by Salimah Valiani

In a gesture of support with Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories of Jordan's West Bank, several Canadians will travel

WOMEN'S ISSUE CO-ORDINATORS' MEETING. UNION B-03 AT 17H00. THE ISSUE IS COMING OUT SOON, IF NOT SOONER, SO BE THERE.

News writers' Meeting today at 16h00. Come put news into the paper, a smile on your face and an "F" on your transcript. Union B-03. New blood welcome... heh heh heh.

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THE MCGILL CHESS ASSOCIATION

Is holding a chess tournament on the 20th of February, first round starts at 10:00am in Union 425/426. Everyone is welcome. Cost \$3.00 (If you have a chess clock please bring it).

For more info please call 932-2762.



there in late March.

The delegates will be sponsored by the International Centre for Worker Solidarity (CISO). Although selected by CISO, the delegates will not necessarily be members of the organisation, but rather "people from all walks of life," said CISO representative Patrice Vézina. "There will be anthropologists, people from the medical field, the church, and of course natives, who have experienced living on occupied territories themselves," he added. These people, with their various occupations, will give several different accounts of what they saw," said Vézina.

The delegates will compile a dossier of their information, ideas, and suggestions as to what actions should be taken in the near future in solidarity with the Palestinian people. A journalist and a doctor presently working in the occupied

territories will add their experiences about working with Palestinians in April.

"What often happens," said Vézina, "is people return with a better idea of what to do. They come back with a specific need, for example a school or a hospital, and then organize projects to satisfy the need."

The dossier will be the basis for indications made by CISO to the Canadian government as to what actions it should take in support of the Palestinians, for press conferences, and for conferences with other groups and organizations.

Other projects and dossiers organized by CISO this year cover women prisoners in Chili, the peace plan of Central America, debts of the Third World countries, and human rights in Southern Africa.

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BOWL-A-THON FOR ETHIOPIAN JEWRY
Proceeds from this event will go to support projects in Ethiopia and Israel
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Join us on:
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